

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
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R 281428Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0069
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 17857

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR SA SY EG MO MR AG
SUBJECT: RIYADH SUMMIT ON THE MAGHREB

REF: JIDDA 8303

1. BASIS FOR UPI STORY CITED REFTEL WAS SHORT ARTICLE ON PAGE
5 OF AHAM OF DECEMBER 25 BY ARAB AFFAIRS COLUMNIST ZAKARIA NIL,
ENTITLED "SUMMIT OF SIX IN RIYADH." STORY REVIEWS ARAB
EFFORTS TO RESOLVE SHARA CONFLICT, "THE MAJOR PROBLEM OF
ARAB MAGHREB" CITING IN PARTICULAR ROLE OF EGYPT AN VP
MUBARAK WHOSE MEDIATION ENDED WHAT COULD HAVE BEEN CATASTROPHIC
CONFRONTATION OF MORRACAN AND ALGERIAN ARMIES." EFFORTS OF
ARAB CHIEFS-OF-STATE INCLUDING SADAT-BOUMEDIENE AND
ASAD-BOUMEDIENE MEETINGS AT COLOMBO AND INITIATIVES SUCH AS THAT OF
OAU ALSO MENTIONED. AUTHOR THEN STATES THAT "RIYADH WAY"
OF RESOLVING DISPUTES WITH ITS LIMITED NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS
IN MEETING WHERE DISPUTANTS PUT ALL OF THEIR DIFFERENCES ON
TABLE HOLDS OUT PROMISE. AUTHOR SAYS HE CAN CONFIRM REPORT
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OF "KNOWLEDGEABLE MOROCCAN SOURCE" THAT ARAB EFFORTS
ARE STILL UNDERWAY TO FIND SOLUTION TO SAHARAN PROBLEM. KING
HASSAN AND BOUMEDIENE ARE EXPECTED TO MEET IN RIYADH
IN PRESENCE OF KING KHALID AND MUKTAR OULD DADDAH. SADAT
AND ASAD WILL ALSO ATTEND TO ELIMINATE ANY DOUBTS ABOUT
FAIRNESS OF FORUM. AS FOR TIMING, ARTICLE IMPLIES THAT SUMMIT

WOULD ALREADY HAVE BEEN HELD HAD IT NOT BEEN FOR POSTPONEMENT
AS RESULT OF KHALID'S TRIP TO EYROPE FOR MEDICAL REASONS AND
ELECTIONS IN ALGERIA.

2. COMMENT: CHIEF OF UPI BUREAU IN CAIRO TOLD POLCOUNS HE HAD
NO INDEPENDENT CONFIRMATION OF STORY, BUT INCLINED TO BELIEVE
IT IN VIEW USUAL RELIABILITY OF ZAKARIA NIL, PRINCE FAHD'S
RECENT VISIT TO MOROCCO, AND OBVIOUS SAUDI-GOE INTEREST
IN ACHIEVING GREATEST POSSIBLE ARAB SOLIDARITY AT
THIS TIME.
EILTS

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